



Refugees Company for Crafts and Design



... designed by Enzo Mari, made by refugees.

## THE PROJECT

The „CUCULA – Refugees Company for Crafts and Design“ considers itself to be a pilot scheme, which supports refugees in their efforts to establish an own future on a professional basis.

By producing exclusive designer furniture, which imply landmarks of their hard journey ferrying across the Mediterranean Sea, these young men substantiate their own story and their vision of a self-determined future: the furniture becomes an „ambassador“.

By working in the CUCULA manufactory, the refugees acquire the basics of craftsmanship with a main emphasis on furniture construction. The revenue from the furniture disposal serves for financing their subsistence and their education.

The disposals and the contribution receipts aim is, to generate five scholarships and a business budget. A scholarship entitles the refugees to receive a visa for educational purposes: a stabil solution and, from an economic perspective, applicable model of integration. For the CUCULA manufactory project, we are searching for sponsors who accompany us in word and deed and donate in kind and monetary.

## THE FACTS

Disaster scenarios shouldn't put us in a state of helplessness - proactivity is required. Design and creative industries offer a vivid transference space for a kind of creativity which is not limited to political bounds.

The participants - who had to fight their way through from West Africa, from Niger and from Mali via Lampedusa and Italy to Germany, because war and aridity have destroyed all substructures of a dignified future - want to get involved for their continuance in Berlin.

For all of them it is very important to fend for themselves and to be able to build up a self-determined future. CUCULA supports them to get rid of the stigmatization of being a „victim“, to evolve their self-efficacy and to develop perspectives of a self-determined life.







## THE EDUCATION

CUCULA has been maintaining an own workshop since june 2014 - you can call it the first „cell“ of this business project. In cooperation with designers and pedagogues, a vivid production space has risen for to intercede craftsman techniques in woodwork and functions as a mutual learning area at the same time.

Apart from craftsmanship basics, the CUCULA EDUCATION program also offers general education, such as German lessons, daily living aids and legal advice for the refugees. The creative abilities of these young men and the traditional West African craftsmanship encounter european design history within the working process: as an introduction, the manufactory project addresses itself intensely to the early concepts of home-made furniture by the known italian designer Enzo Mari.

## ENZO MARI

CUCULAs furniture pieces not only are design classics, but furthermore stand for the story of their builders. The furniture construction bases on the book „Autoprogettazione“ by Enzo Mari, which, published in 1974 and including 19 different furniture designs, constitutes a milestone in design history.

Meant to be an alternative draft to formalism and intending the democratization of design itself, Enzo Mari provoked an identification with the own furniture and initiated a learning and reflection process. 40 years later, he allows the CUCULA team to exploit these designs. These are ideal preconditions for a realistic enterprise! By disposal of workpieces and by receiving donations, we want to bankroll a company that takes on trainees.



## STATUS QUO

We are about to set up a registered association, named CUCULA e.V.. The association will help us to pursue our non-material purposes - such as integration and educational support for refugees - and to establish the CUCULA company.

Numerous sponsors (designers, lawyers, social workers, solicitors, economists etc.) are already part of the association and support our project energetically.

Until CUCULAs benefit to the public is acknowledged by the public authority, donations will be administrated by the „JugendKunst- und Kulturhaus Schlesische 27“ - our „maternal organization“, charitable provider and initiator of this project in 2013. After introducing the project at the Milan Furniture Fair, the DMY festival in Berlin and recently at the Dutch Design Week in Eindhoven, there have been various requests and publications of all kinds of media like newspapers, radio and TV (ZDF, DIE ZEIT, Wirtschaftswoche, FAZ etc.).

In the meantime CUCULA has established an accumulation of prominent supporters referring to science, politics, art, culture and industry and is delighted to announce the disposal of the first workpieces.

The associated program CUCULA EDUCATION is supported by the „Stiftung Pfefferberg“, the „Fonds Soziokultur“ and by private sponsors - sincere thanks for the precious help!



## INTERESTED?

If you want to support the initiative, you can get more information on our website  
[www.cucula.org](http://www.cucula.org)

Or contact us directly:

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